



## Press Release

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### **Humphreys community gets glimpse of the future at town hall meeting**

**By Steve Davis**  
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**CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA** – Questions began flying like bullets about an hour into the town hall held Tuesday at Camp Humphreys.

After a detailed presentation about the future of Camp Humphreys, Area III Commander Col. Michael J. Taliento Jr. opened the discussion to questions from community members at the first town hall meeting since he assumed command of Area III about a month ago.

As he got an earful of issues, Capt. Angela Greenewald from the Area III Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobility and Security, or DPTMS, wrote them all down on an easel pad.

There were issues affecting just about everyone. Someone couldn't get a baby carriage through the security turnstile at the walk-through gate. Wasn't there something to be done about the garbage piling up in off-post areas where military personnel live? We need more buses and taxis and longer gas station hours. The list of issues and concerns was long.

Those issues and questions didn't whiz aimlessly by. For Taliento, they were right on target. Problems and solutions are exactly what he is looking for, and he didn't dodge them. As Greenewald

jotted down issues for follow-up action by the Area III Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobility and Security, Area III directorate and community leaders seated at tables arranged into a 20-foot-wide “U” in the middle of the town hall meeting scribbled on notepads for follow-through at their respective directorate or staff section. They were getting into the fight.

In Taliento terminology, getting into “the fight” means getting involved in the thick of action to improve Area III.

“I’ve been here nearly a month and I’ve been out talking to Soldiers, talking to commanders, talking to leaders in the community, talking to families and learning about the [Camp Humphreys] environment,” Taliento said, at the beginning of the meeting. “I want to share with you my vision and my commitment and how we plan to fight and win.”

He began listing key elements of the Area III battle plan.

“We are going to create ‘The Soldier’s Post’ and bring families, a place where children can get educated, where U.S. civilian employees, Korean national employees and the Republic of Korea and U.S. armies can grow, prosper, prepare for combat and prepare for war,” Taliento said. “At the same time, we’re going to create an optimal family environment. We have a lot of those elements in place. We’re going to keep working to make them better.

“Is everything working perfectly? No, but you have my commitment and my staff’s commitment that if something is broke, we’re going to work to fix it. I can’t fix it if I don’t know about it,” he said.

Good communications, said Taliento, is key.

“To fight and win, we need to communicate aggressively with commanders, Soldiers, employees and family members,” he said. “We are going to develop a cycle of information sharing.”

The cycle of information will include:

■ A leader’s information management meeting will be held the first Tuesday of each month to reply to action items from town hall meetings and disseminate command information. The meeting will

be attended by unit commanders, sergeants major and first sergeants, as well as family readiness group and post council leaders.

■ A newcomers briefing held the second Tuesday of each month to welcome newcomers and families. The goal is to establish a positive first impression and introduce community leaders.

■ A town hall meeting will be held quarterly on the third Tuesday of August, November, February and May to put out command information and receive input and concerns from community members.

■ A monthly DPTMS operations training meeting will be held jointly the fourth Tuesday of each month with tenant unit S-3 personnel and others who need to be in the fight. The purpose of the meeting is to share information about organizational and training events and to synchronize short- and long-range installation calendar events.

Other information-sharing methods will be employed, including a community master planning calendar that will show timelines and key events; electronic information marquees at key high-traffic areas to supplement information already on electronic bulletin boards on post; and a detailed installation map showing key locations will be included in newcomer packets and posted at bus stops and other high-use places.

Taliento asked community members for patience as future plans are developed.

“I don’t come to the fight carrying a bag of money. I have to stand in line with everyone else,” he said. “But we are going to work on the things we can and I invite your input.”

At the end of the meeting, he and Area III directors had plenty to start with.

Reaction to the town hall was generally positive.

Lt. Col. Jerald L. Phifer, who assumed command of the 527th Military Intelligence Battalion a month ago, said he was “very pleased” with Taliento’s efforts so far.

“He’s been here in our spaces several times to address issues and engage our staff,” said Phifer. He credited Command Sgt. Maj. David J. Thomas and 527th Military Intelligence Battalion Family Readiness Group leader Stacey Meyer for involving the unit’s large turnout at the town hall meeting.

Family member Pam McCree said, “It’s exciting to see the exchange of wonderful ideas.”

Staff Sgt. Jerry Flowers, from Detachment B, 176th<sup>th</sup> Finance Command, said he found the meeting to be “very informative” because it focused on such unaccompanied Soldier issues as bus schedules and barrack utility outages.

“I can take back a lot of information and now I know where to send my Soldiers to get help,” said Flowers.

**Sidebar:** The shape of things to come

- Camp Humphreys will more than double in size and triple in population.
- A one-stop in- and out-processing center is planned.
- The main and CPX gates will be upgraded.
- The new commissary and parking area will open around June next year.
- A children’s learning area is planned at the post library.
- Barracks upgrades will continue for unaccompanied Soldiers, including two high-rise barracks and a large dining facility presently under construction at Zoeckler Station.
- More family housing will be built.
- A used car lot is planned to help Soldiers buy and sell privately owned vehicles.
- New roads and warehouse facilities will be built.
- A 1.8-mile fitness running trail will be built. In the meantime, some streets may be closed during unit PT time.
- Sports fields are being built across from Beacon Hill and an aquatic park is being planned near the Augusta West miniature golf course.